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## Students revive mural for Kipling's 50th

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When the old Deerfield Grammar School was demolished in 1968, the wrecking ball also turned to rubble a mural depicting deer in a field.

But when Drew Tibbetts, secretary at Kipling School, received the assignment to help plan the school's 50th anniversary celebration earlier this year, a novel idea hit her. Tibbetts, who attended the grammar school back in 1949, remembered the mural that used to hang there.

"My (late) father-in-law had been president of the school board then," she said. "He took slides of it and my mother-in-law gave me one and we got it reproduced into a photograph and sort of adapted it."

Kipling School art teacher Kathy Hillyer took on the task of organizing students to help recreate the mural. A group of 13 fifth-grade students painted the work of art using acrylic paint on a thin masonite board measuring 20 by 3 feet tall. The painting stands above the stage in the school's gym and will be dedicated June 2 during a ceremony set to celebrate Kipling's 50th anniversary.

An inscription on one end of the panel reads Kipling School 1949-1950, another reads 1999-2000.

"We wanted to do something that tied to the past of Kipling," Hillyer added.

Students who wanted to be on the mural painting team had to fill out a job application. On the application, students were asked to state why they were interested in the job and to describe their qualifications.

"I wanted this job because this is my last year at Kipling," said Dana Small. "I wanted to do something special for the school."

"I wanted the job because I wanted to be able to come back to this school when I'm older and to be able to say that I worked on the mural," added Krissy Bredemeier.

"I like to paint and when I was young I always wanted to be an artist," said Deniz Tumer of her qualifications.

Twice a week, for nearly three months, the students used their lunchtime to work on the project.

"It meant a lot to me because I really love art," said Petar Doko.

"I like to paint and I wanted to do something for Kipling," added Charlene Chan.

Doko and Chan believe the painting turned out to be "really nice."

"The colors were so faded in the slide so we brightened it up and made it more 21st Century," Hillyer said.

Colors went from a variety of tans and browns to turquoise, blue, green and brown.

The original mural, a tile mosaic which depicted three deer trotting through a field, was painted during the Depression Era by the Works Project Administration commissioned by Roosevelt. The scene was most likely one of Deerfield's, according to school officials.

"It took so long for these workers to make the mural and it was so sad they had to tear down the building and ruin it," Tibbetts said. "It was beautiful and the workmanship was unbelievable. They were half-inch square glass tiles."

Tibbetts said her late father-in-law had saved some of the tiles in a jar but her mother-in-law who lives in Arizona could not locate them.